

Mid Winter CONFERENCE 2008

March 3-5, 2008

Ramkota Inn, 920 W Sioux, Pierre, SD

Division of Rehabilitation Services and Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired invite you to the Annual Mid Winter Conference 2008 on March 3-5 in Pierre, South Dakota. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the South Dakota RehabACTion web site at: www.SDRehabACTion.org.

Conference Information:

The conference will be held at the Ramkota Best Western Inn at 920 W Sioux Avenue in Pierre, SD. The conference will begin at 1:00 pm on March 3rd and end at noon on March 5th. Registration cost will be \$100. Registration form is enclosed with this announcement and also posted on the South Dakota RehabACTion web site. Questions on the conference can be directed to: Janet Ball – 605-773-4547 or at janet.ball@state.sd.us.

Lodging Information:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Pierre Best Western Ramkota Inn. Reservations can be made by contacting 605-224-6877. Another block of rooms is held at the Governors Inn and reservations can be made at 605-224-4200. Both these blocks will be released 30 days prior to the event, so make your reservations today. Ask for the block of rooms held under the Department of Human Services.

General and Keynote Presentation: Nelson Lauver



In 1992 at age 29, Nelson, then a parking lot line painter, set a goal... to overcome a lifetime of illiteracy caused by undiagnosed dyslexia. Intense struggle, burning desire, and a never give up attitude enabled him to achieve his goal, and change his life. Nelson learned to read and write - and that was just the start.

Today, Nelson touches the lives of millions of listeners with his syndicated radio feature, The American Storyteller Radio Journal, a 4 minute slice of Americana broadcast daily across the United States. Nelson's faithful listeners consider him an old friend - comparing him to the likes of Garrison Keillor, Paul Harvey, Charles Kuralt and even the legendary Mark Twain.

As a motivational speaker and humorist for nearly 15 years, Nelson has been entertaining and inspiring audiences with his thoughts on goal setting, personal achievement and human potential. Nelson travels and speaks to many diverse groups, from colleges and universities to corporate and charitable organizations. His proudest moment came in 2003 when he was invited to share his "Rules for Beating the Odds" at the very school where teachers had given up on him.

In his presentation Nelson uses humor and powerful real-life examples, (including his own very personal story) to motivate and inspire you. A former consumer of rehab services, Nelson will share his experience working with Vocational Rehabilitation and how he beat the odds against a lifetime of undiagnosed dyslexia.

Social Comedian and General Presentation: Jeff Charlebois



Jeff Charlebois is not your ordinary comedian. He performs in a wheelchair and is billed as "A SIT-DOWN COMIC WHO'S ALWAYS ON A ROLL!" For over fifteen years, Jeff has performed at over 150 colleges spreading laughter and disability awareness. He is also a regular at comedy clubs as he often surprises audiences with his candid view of life in a wheelchair.

Among his many accomplishments as a comedian, he is also an acclaimed MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER. He emphasizes the fact that whether able or disabled we are all unique and special people with wonderful individualized talents that should be developed to make a contribution to the world. Born and raised on the east coast, Jeff was the perfect example of an all around guy-- high school star quarterback, tennis, basketball and golf player, and All American diver on his swim team. It wasn't until the beginning part of his junior year was he involved in an automobile accident causing a broken neck and spinal cord injury. Hospitalization and rehabilitation consumed every day of the next six months.

Jeff returned to school and graduated before taking on college as a wheelchair user. After his first two years of study he was accepted and transferred to Wright State University where enrolled in a new bio/engineering program dealing with spinal cord research. The program was highly acclaimed and was featured on a segment of "60 Minutes."

Jeff will do a comedy routine during the Monday night social hour. He will follow that up with his story of how he became disabled and how it changed his life. He will talk about the barriers he faced, both physically and mentally, and how he overcame adversity while developing his talents for comedy and writing. He will touch upon his experiences with Vocational Rehabilitation and how it helped him in his career and offer advice on dealing with a disabled individual to cultivate their talents so that they may pursue their dreams and lead a fulfilling life.

Dr. Larry Swain:



Dr. Larry Swain is a leadership and interpersonal communication expert for corporate, private business, and Universities. He travels nationally and internationally to lead management, development training, and strategic planning conferences and projects. Dr. Swain has received national recognition for leadership programs and multiple papers on human capital development. He has had the opportunity to develop human capital training programs in Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Australia, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and the Netherlands.

Dr. Larry Swain has successfully started 15 companies of his own over the past 42 years and has worked with thousands of farmers, ranchers and small businesses in developing business planning. In addition, Dr. Swain spent 8 years as an executive with Land O Lakes and has been on the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Wisconsin-River Falls and South Dakota State University. He has received numerous state and national awards for his work with rural communities and businesses.

Dr. Swain's presentation will provide tools for developing a business plan and what you need to watch for when working with individuals who want to start and succeed as a business owner.

Matthew E. Markve:

Matthew E. Markve is a training specialist for the Region VIII Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program at the University of Northern Colorado. Concurrently, Matt is conducting research for his doctoral dissertation in Human Rehabilitation at UNC. In addition to his training duties and educational pursuits, Matt also serves as an adjunct professor at UNC.

Mr. Markve is a professionally trained counselor with a Master of Arts degree in Human Rehabilitation from the University of Northern Colorado in 2002. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of New Mexico in 2000. Matt has experience working with clients in substance abuse programs, supported employment services for adults with developmental disabilities, and one-on-one consumer community integration.

Matt's first presentation will address the culture and cycle of poverty and how it plays a role in the lives of our consumers. Matt will also present on the ethical dilemmas between the consumer and counselor and the counselor's role in assisting the individual in making choices and decisions.

Governor's Awards Luncheon

Governor's Awards Luncheon sponsored by the Board of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired will be held Tuesday March 4th starting at 11:45. Tickets must be purchased separately from the South Dakota Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities. Contact Colette Wagoner at 605-945-2207 for further information.

Breakout Presentations:

A variety of presenters and topics will happen at the conference. Following is a list of presenters and their topics. As more presentations are finalized, additional information will be posted at WWW.SDRehabACTion.org

- Nelson Lauver – Succeeding against the odds and speaking on Dyslexia
- Jeff Charlebois – Social Comedian and Living with a Disability
- Matthew Markve – RCEP: Culture of Poverty and Ethical Dilemmas with Consumer Choice
- Dr Larry Swain – SDSU: Business Planning and Strategies
- Other sessions include presentations on Transition, MAWD (Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities), and from the Small Business Development Center

Sponsors for 2008 Mid Winter Conference:

[South Dakota Division of Rehabilitation Services](#)

[South Dakota Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)

[Region VIII RCEP](#)

[South Dakota RehabACTion](#)

Monday Night Social:

Monday night, March 3rd features a Comedian during a social hour sponsored by RehabACTion. Please join conference attendees for hors d'oeuvres and a chance to visit with fellow workers and providers and enjoy the humor of Jeff Charlebois billed as "A SIT-DOWN COMIC WHO'S ALWAYS ON A ROLL!".